

EQUISETUM limosum.

Sp. Pl. 1517. *Flo. Ang.* 448. *Scot.* 648. *Cant.* 385. *Ray Syn.*
131. *Tab.* 5. *Fig.* 2. *Hall. Hist.* 1677.

T A B. XXXVIII.

SMOOTH HORSETAIL.

THE root, A, is large, tough, branched, jointed, and vaginated; it is of a rusty brown colour, and creeps horizontally under the mud.

The young shoots appear in April, and are covered with brown rust-coloured vagina; each of which is divided in twelve or fourteen black acute dents, at the top. The spaces between the vaginæ are of a pale green, and smooth surface.

In the full grown plant, the vaginæ change to a pale green, retaining only a faint tinge of brown near the base of the dents, which still remain black. The uppermost vagina of the fertile leaf is paler, more large, more lax, and the black dents longer than in the rest; and the stem above it, which supports the flower spike, is white.

The shields, which compose the flower spike, are at first black, and close thrust together; when the spike opens, the feminal valves are of a pale colour, and copiously discharge a white powder.

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